



**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items  
2006**

**Grade 3  
Reading**

# Reading

The loud noise scared me.

① Which word means the **same** as noise?

- ☐ A. sound
- ☐ B. choice
- ☐ C. light
- ☐ D. quiet

② Which word has the same **ending** sound as enough?

- ☐ A. fourth
- ☐ B. evening
- ☐ C. stuff
- ☐ D. glove

*Helen Keller was a real person who could not see or hear. Anne Sullivan was a teacher at a school called the Perkins Institution. Read the following passage and then answer the questions that follow.*

**Helen Keller**  
**Courage in the Dark**  
*by Johanna Hurwitz*

Mr. and Mrs. Keller wrote a letter to the Perkins Institution. A teacher wrote back. Her name was Anne Sullivan. Friends called her Annie.

Annie agreed to come and live with the Kellers and to teach Helen. Helen was now almost seven years old.

At first Helen was not a good student. She did not obey Annie. Helen was used to having her own way. Her parents had allowed her to act out. They never punished her. They thought she could not control her behavior.

Annie had to teach Helen everything. She was very strict with her young student. Helen was strong and stubborn—but so was Annie. Sometimes Helen pinched or hit Annie. When Helen hit her, Annie hit her back. Bit by bit, Helen learned to pay attention to her new teacher.

Annie taught Helen many new things. She taught her to sit at the dinner table. She taught her to eat with a knife and fork and spoon. She taught her to dress herself and brush her hair.

Annie wanted to teach her student something that was even more important. She wanted to teach young Helen how to understand words.

At the Perkins Institution, Annie had learned a special finger alphabet. Different hand positions stood for different letters. She could speak to deaf people by spelling out words with her hands.

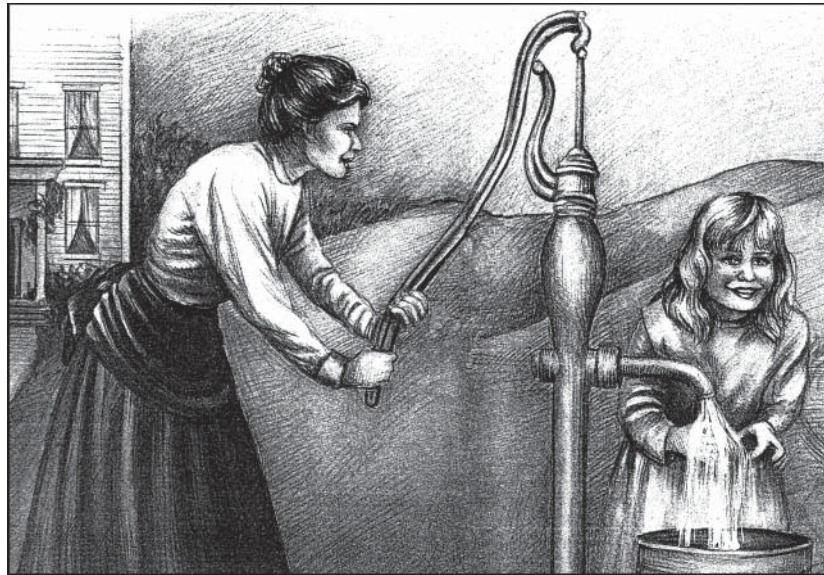


Helen had lost her sense of sight and her sense of hearing. But she still had her sense of touch. Annie tried to teach Helen the special alphabet.

She spelled out one word after another inside Helen's hand. Helen copied Annie and repeated the finger movements. She learned how to spell *doll*, *cake*, *milk*, and *mug*. But she did not understand what the words meant. Annie tried over and over, but Helen still did not understand.

One spring day, Annie and Helen went for a walk outside. Annie took Helen to a well. The teacher pumped some water and let it run over Helen's fingers. Slowly she spelled out the word *water* into Helen's palm. Then she did it again and again.

Suddenly, the little girl understood. The wet liquid and the word being spelled in her palm were the same thing! WATER.



- 3 Why did Annie Sullivan come to live with the Kellers?
- ☐ A. She wanted to bring Helen to the Perkins Institution.
  - ☐ B. She was friends with the Kellers.
  - ☐ C. She wanted to be Helen's teacher.
  - ☐ D. She was taking care of the Kellers.

- 4 At first, Helen was not a good student because she
- ☐ A. did not like school.
  - ☐ B. did not like Annie.
  - ☐ C. was afraid of being punished.
  - ☐ D. was used to having her own way.

- 5 Annie knew the **most** important thing Helen could learn was how to
- ☐ A. sit at the dinner table.
  - ☐ B. understand words.
  - ☐ C. use a knife, fork, and spoon.
  - ☐ D. dress herself.

- 6 At the Perkins Institution, how did Annie speak to someone who could not hear?
- ☐ A. She moved the person's fingers.
  - ☐ B. She repeated words over and over.
  - ☐ C. She asked the person to spell words.
  - ☐ D. She spelled words with her hands.

- 7 The word stubborn means to want things only one way.

Is This Person Being Stubborn?	Yes or No
1. A person eats just carrots.	<hr/>
2. A person listens to a teacher give directions.	<hr/>
3. A person stops reading to go outside.	<hr/>
4. A person does not go anywhere without a favorite hat.	<hr/>

- 8 Why did Annie think that Helen could learn the special finger alphabet?
- ☐ A. Helen still had her sense of touch.
  - ☐ B. Annie knew Helen was a good speller.
  - ☐ C. Helen liked to do things with her hands.
  - ☐ D. Annie thought Helen was her smartest student.
- 9 What problem did Helen have when she tried to learn the special alphabet?
- ☐ A. She did not like learning new things.
  - ☐ B. She could not learn how to spell words.
  - ☐ C. She did not understand what words meant.
  - ☐ D. She could not repeat the finger movements.

- 10 Which word rhymes with meant?
- ☐ A. teach
  - ☐ B. milk
  - ☐ C. went
  - ☐ D. want
- 11 Which word has a suffix (ending) that means more than one?
- ☐ A. teacher
  - ☐ B. fingers
  - ☐ C. spelled
  - ☐ D. having

- 12 Fill in the chart. Use details from the passage.

<b>Why Annie may have liked teaching Helen:</b>
1.
2.

<b>Why Annie may NOT have liked teaching Helen:</b>
1.
2.



# Acknowledgments

The New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island Departments of Education wish to acknowledge and credit the following authors and publishers for use of their work in the reading portion of the *New England Common Assessment Program*—2006.

Excerpt from *Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark* (pp. 2–3) by Johanna Hurwitz. Published by Random House Children’s Books. Copyright © 1997 by Johanna Hurwitz.

### Grade 3 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand <sup>1</sup>	WV	WV	IA	IA	II	II	WV	II	II	WV	WV	IA
GLE Code	2-3	2-1	2-8	2-8	2-7	2-7	2-2	2-7	2-7	2-1	2-2	2-8
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	3
Item Type <sup>2</sup>	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	A	C	C	D	B	D		A	C	C	B	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

<sup>1</sup>Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,  
II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

<sup>2</sup>Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, CR = Constructed Response



**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items  
Support Materials  
2006**

**Grade 3  
Reading**

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 3 READING

**2.3.1** Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge, demonstrating understanding of word meanings or relationships by identifying synonyms or antonyms; or categorizing words

The loud noise scared me.

**1** Which word means the **same** as noise?

- ☐ A. sound
- ☐ B. choice
- ☐ C. light
- ☐ D. quiet

**2.1.1** Applies word identification and decoding strategies by identifying regularly spelled multi-syllabic words, by using knowledge of sounds, syllable types, or word patterns (including most common spellings for consonants and vowels, e.g., knot, catch, float, fight; or common suffixes)

**2** Which word has the same **ending** sound as enough?

- ☐ A. fourth
- ☐ B. evening
- ☐ C. stuff
- ☐ D. glove

## Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark

### Informational Text

**2.8.3** Analyze and interpret informational text, citing evidence as appropriate by making basic inferences or drawing basic conclusions

- 3 Why did Annie Sullivan come to live with the Kellers?
- ☐ A. She wanted to bring Helen to the Perkins Institution.
  - ☐ B. She was friends with the Kellers.
  - ☐ C. She wanted to be Helen's teacher.
  - ☐ D. She was taking care of the Kellers.

**2.8.3** Analyze and interpret informational text, citing evidence as appropriate by making basic inferences or drawing basic conclusions

- 4 At first, Helen was not a good student because she
- ☐ A. did not like school.
  - ☐ B. did not like Annie.
  - ☐ C. was afraid of being punished.
  - ☐ D. was used to having her own way.

## Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark

### Informational Text

**2.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using explicitly stated information to answer questions**

- 5** Annie knew the **most** important thing Helen could learn was how to
- ☐ A. sit at the dinner table.
  - ☐ B. understand words.
  - ☐ C. use a knife, fork, and spoon.
  - ☐ D. dress herself.

**2.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using explicitly stated information to answer questions**

- 6** At the Perkins Institution, how did Annie speak to someone who could not hear?
- ☐ A. She moved the person's fingers.
  - ☐ B. She repeated words over and over.
  - ☐ C. She asked the person to spell words.
  - ☐ D. She spelled words with her hands.

## Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark

### Informational Text

**2.2.1** Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including common base words and suffixes, such as “thick-est,” “hope-ful;” or context clues, including illustrations and diagrams; or prior knowledge)

- 7 The word stubborn means to want things only one way.

Is This Person Being Stubborn?	Yes or No
1. A person eats just carrots.	_____
2. A person listens to a teacher give directions.	_____
3. A person stops reading to go outside.	_____
4. A person does not go anywhere without a favorite hat.	_____

**NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 3 READING**

**Scoring Guide:**

<b>Score</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>4</b>	Response provides four correct answers in the chart.
<b>3</b>	Response provides three correct answers in the chart.
<b>2</b>	Response provides two correct answers in the chart.
<b>1</b>	Response provides one correct answer in the chart.
<b>0</b>	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
<b>Blank</b>	No response

**Training Notes:**

<b>Is This Person Being Stubborn?</b>	<b>Yes or No</b>
1. A person eats just carrots.	<b>YES</b>
2. A person listens to a teacher give directions.	<b>NO</b>
3. A person stops reading to go outside.	<b>NO</b>
4. A person does not go anywhere without a favorite hat.	<b>YES</b>



NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 3 READING

SCORE POINT 4

Is This Person Being Stubborn?	Yes or No
1. A person eats just carrots.	Yes
2. A person listens to a teacher give directions.	no
3. A person stops reading to go outside.	NO
4. A person does not go anywhere without a favorite hat.	Yes

Response provides four correct answers in the chart.

SCORE POINT 3

Is This Person Being Stubborn?	Yes or No
1. A person eats just carrots.	yes
2. A person listens to a teacher give directions.	No.
3. A person stops reading to go outside.	yes
4. A person does not go anywhere without a favorite hat.	Yes

Response provides three correct answers in the chart.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 3 READING

SCORE POINT 2

Is This Person Being Stubborn?	Yes or No
1. A person eats just carrots.	No
2. A person listens to a teacher give directions.	yes
3. A person stops reading to go outside.	No
4. A person does not go anywhere without a favorite hat.	yes

Response provides two correct answers in the chart.

SCORE POINT 1

Is This Person Being Stubborn?	Yes or No
1. A person eats just carrots.	NO
2. A person listens to a teacher give directions.	yes
3. A person stops reading to go outside.	No
4. A person does not go anywhere without a favorite hat.	NO

Response provides one correct answer in the chart.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 3 READING

SCORE POINT 0

Is This Person Being Stubborn?	Yes or No
1. A person eats just carrots.	No
2. A person listens to a teacher give directions.	Yes
3. A person stops reading to go outside.	Yes
4. A person does not go anywhere without a favorite hat.	No

Response is incorrect.

## Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark

### Informational Text

**2.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using explicitly stated information to answer questions**

- 8** Why did Annie think that Helen could learn the special finger alphabet?
- ☐ A. Helen still had her sense of touch.
  - ☐ B. Annie knew Helen was a good speller.
  - ☐ C. Helen liked to do things with her hands.
  - ☐ D. Annie thought Helen was her smartest student.

**2.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using explicitly stated information to answer questions**

- 9** What problem did Helen have when she tried to learn the special alphabet?
- ☐ A. She did not like learning new things.
  - ☐ B. She could not learn how to spell words.
  - ☐ C. She did not understand what words meant.
  - ☐ D. She could not repeat the finger movements.

## Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark

### Informational Text

**2.1.1 Applies word identification and decoding strategies by** identifying regularly spelled multi-syllabic words, by using knowledge of sounds, syllable types, or word patterns (including most common spellings for consonants and vowels, e.g., knot, catch, float, fight; or common suffixes)

10 Which word rhymes with meant?

- ☐ A. teach
- ☐ B. milk
- ☐ C. went
- ☐ D. want

**2.2.1 Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by** using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including common base words and suffixes, such as “thick-est,” “hope-ful;” or context clues, including illustrations and diagrams; or prior knowledge)

11 Which word has a suffix (ending) that means more than one?

- ☐ A. teacher
- ☐ B. fingers
- ☐ C. spelled
- ☐ D. having

## Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark

### Informational Text

**2.8.3** Analyze and interpret informational text, citing evidence as appropriate by making basic inferences or drawing basic conclusions

- 12 Fill in the chart. Use details from the passage.

<b>Why Annie may have liked teaching Helen:</b>
1.
2.

<b>Why Annie may NOT have liked teaching Helen:</b>
1.
2.

**NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 3 READING**

**Scoring Guide:**

<b>Score</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>4</b>	Response provides four plausible answers in the chart.
<b>3</b>	Response provides three plausible answers in the chart.
<b>2</b>	Response provides two plausible answers in the chart.
<b>1</b>	Response provides one plausible answer in the chart. <b>OR</b> Response is vague/minimal.
<b>0</b>	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
<b>Blank</b>	No response

**Training Notes:**

<b>Why Annie may have liked teaching Helen:</b>	<b>Why Annie may NOT have liked teaching Helen:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annie was trained to work with the deaf and blind (and Helen was deaf and blind—count <i>deaf</i> and <i>blind</i> as one disability).</li> <li>Helen learned more and more as time went on.</li> <li>Annie was able to use the finger alphabet she learned at the Perkins Institution.</li> <li>Helen finally understood how to attach meaning to the words she learned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helen’s behavior was very difficult in the beginning.</li> <li>Helen would pinch and hit Annie (count <i>hit</i> and <i>pinch</i> together as one action).</li> <li>Annie had to teach Helen everything.</li> <li>Annie had to be very strict, strong, and stubborn with Helen.</li> <li>Annie tried to teach Helen the meanings of words, with no luck at first.</li> <li>Helen’s disabilities (deaf and blind) made teaching very difficult.</li> <li>Helen’s parents allowed Helen to behave poorly.</li> </ul>

Do not give credit to responses such as “Annie liked to teach Helen” or “Helen could learn.”

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 3 READING

SCORE POINT 4

**Why Annie may have liked teaching Helen:**

1.

lerned to behav

2.

lerned the meaning  
of verds

**Why Annie may NOT have liked teaching Helen:**

1.

She was very  
stabern

2.

she pincht and hit  
Anni

Response provides four plausible answers in the chart.



NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 3 READING

SCORE POINT 3

**Why Annie may have liked teaching Helen:**

1. she Ler ned to Dress.

2. She Lered to PUMP  
water.

**Why Annie may NOT have liked teaching Helen:**

1. She Slaped here  
back.

2. Did NOT Listen.

Response provides three plausible answers in the chart.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 3 READING

SCORE POINT 2

Why Annie may have liked teaching Helen:

1. because Annie  
wanted to teach  
Helen how to talk

2.

Why Annie may NOT have liked teaching Helen:

1. because Helen  
was stubborn.

2.

Response provides two plausible answers in the chart.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 3 READING

SCORE POINT 1

Why Annie may have liked teaching Helen:

1. cause it's fun

2. and gets you more  
thing

Why Annie may NOT have liked teaching Helen:

1. Cause it was too bad

2. Cause it was hard for her

Response provides one plausible answer in the chart.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS  
GRADE 3 READING

SCORE POINT 0

**Why Annie may have liked teaching Helen:**

1.

happy

2.

good

**Why Annie may NOT have liked teaching Helen:**

1.

sad

2.

bad

Response is irrelevant.